

No West Point of Our Own.

BY LIEUT. H. O. FLIPPER.

Editor of The Colored American, Washington, D. C., Dear sir:—After I had sent you my views as to how to keep one or more Negro students at the Naval and Military Academies, The Colored American brought me the proposition of Mr. J. C. Cunningham for "A West Point of our own."

I wish to register my objection to such a proposition. It is not practicable. Every state and territory in the Union has a military academy and there are hundreds of private military institutions. There are also a large number of schools that give so-called military instruction, and even have army officers detailed as instructors. None of them give more than the most rudimentary instruction and do not go beyond the school of the company in in-



LIEUT. HENRY OSSIAN FLIPPER.

fantry or the school of the cannoner in artillery and pay no attention whatever to cavalry or to military or international law, as to the rights and obligations of belligerents, neutrals and non combatants. Not one of them has the one thousandths part of the equipment which West Point has. Not one of them has a siege or sea coast battery, a pontoon train or field telegraph. Not one of them is prepared to give practical instruction in ballistics, field fortification or military mining. Not one of them has a laboratory where the students can be instructed in making fuses, fixing ammunition, rockets, etc., Not one of them undertakes to teach logistics. The instruction in all of them is limited to even less than that which the average militiaman gets, for he occasionally sees battalion or regimental manoeuvres.

If it has not been practicable or politic for the states to bring their military schools up to the standard of West Point, I do not believe it will be possible or practicable or politic for the Negro to do so. Such a school, unless adequately equipped, would be worthless, and we have enough of such schools in the country now. A mere chair in some school would not meet the requirements of the case.

Mr. Cunningham thinks the government keeps us out of responsible positions in the service on the plea that we are incompetent, which he admits is the fact, and then keeps us out of the service schools, that we may not become competent. He says the government "has closed the doors of its military schools against us". When has the government done so? Some fifteen Negroes have entered West Point and

three have been graduated there. The treatment accorded the Negro cadets has steadily grown better from the time the first one entered there in 1870 down to the graduation of Major Young. It has never been what it ought to be, but it has always been what we might have expected among so large a number of students drawn from all parts of the country. Personally, I have never known of any ill treatment of a Negro cadet by the government or by any professor or officer at West Point and, frankly, I do not believe there has ever been such a case. What ill treatment Negro cadets have received has come from the white cadets, and that as I have stated, has grown less every succeeding year. It is not in the power of the government or of its officers to put down prejudice at West Point any more than it is in its power to put it down in the country at large. Manifestly the doors of West Point have not been closed against us by the government.

It is not probable that a Negro could obtain appointment in a democratic state for obvious reasons, but there is no reason why, in a republican state, he should not seek that appointment just as he seeks any other appointment, nor is there any reason why he should not get the one just as he gets the other. But when he gets the appointment his education should be sufficiently advanced to enable him to hold the position. It does us no good to send incompetents to West Point, have them fail and then blame the government for it.

A student who has not gone beyond common fractions in arithmetic will find it up hill work to jump to Bourdon's algebra, plane and spherical geometry and plane and spherical trigonometry during his first year at West Point, where something more than "elements" are taught. When I went to West Point I had already mastered those branches and my first year's work there was in the nature of a review, except as to the practical part of the course, drill, etc.

It seems that Mr. Cunningham would have us confess incapacity to take the course at West Point and lack of moral as well as physical courage to face the prejudice that exists there among the students. He thinks the government does not want us at all but proposes that we educate ourselves and offer our services to the government, which could not then charge us with incompetency. He assumes that the government would accept us. Possibly.

I am not prepared to admit either charge, nor do I approve the remedy he proposes. I am not an advocate of equal rights. I believe in a steady, persistent, unrelaxing determination to obtain identical rights. I am not in favor of surrendering anything we have gained. The Negro has as much right to be a cadet as he has to be a register of the Treasury or minister or consul or hold any other official position under the government, and the government has the right to demand that he be fit and competent. Conditions at our service school are abnormal beyond any doubt, just as they are abnormal in all departments of activity in all parts of the country, so far as the Negro is concerned, and for the same reasons,

but he is attacking the trenches everywhere and he has learned that he can expect nothing, if he be unfit and incompetent, and where fit and competent, he is making his way, if indeed it be slowly and laboriously. Why should he throw down his gun and turn away from the trenches that seem to hedge West Point and Annapolis, especially since he knows how the enemy is situated.

Now, I propose that the idea of "A West Point of our own" be abandoned as impracticable and chimerical. Take a boy fourteen, fifteen or sixteen years of age, several of them if you please, from one or more republican states; put them under the care of Professor Kelly Miller and let him give them the identical mathematical course taught at West Point for two or three years and then let them go home and seek appointment by all the means in the power of themselves, their friends at home and influential Negroes and others all over the land, if need be. I have no doubt they will get it and when they go to West Point, they will be able to get in and to stay. The boys selected must be physically sound. The boy who likes to study and is fond of work is far better than the naturally bright but careless or indifferent. Such a boy has little love for hard work and too much time in which to get insulted.

That part of the mathematical course embracing pure mathematics should be thoroughly drilled into the pupil. I refer to algebra, plane and spherical geometry, plane and spherical trigonometry, descriptive geometry, analytical geometry, shades, shadows and perspective, stereotomy and differential and integral calculus. Applied mathematics need not be so thoroughly taught because with a full knowledge of pure mathematics, the former would have no terrors. They embrace analytical mechanics, civil and military engineering, acoustics and optics, astronomy, ordnance and gunnery, and field and sea coast fortification.

I am glad to note Mr. Cunningham's interest in this very important matter and trust he has many followers. I am equally glad to note his belief in having only competent men to represent the race in responsible positions, men trained therefor. The bravery of the British officer and soldier is the admiration of the world, but the incompetency of the officers of all grades is a byword in every military center in the world. (See the severe criticism by Lord Wolsey of the manoeuvres at Aldershot the other day.)

HENRY O FLIPPER,
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The wonderful Face Bleach has been introduced in Washington and is offered to the public at a special rate. The two dollar packages can now be had for one dollar by calling at Kopp's Drug Store, 7th and Florida avenue.

NOTICE

MISS IDA PRETER, of Paris, Mo., writes the following: I have been using the Original OZONIZED OX MARROW for two months only and I am well pleased with it. I was so bald that I was ashamed of myself, to-day I have a thick growth of hair all over my head three inches long. When I am asked by people what I am doing for my hair that it is grown so beautifully I tell them it is the original Ozonized Ox Marrow that did the work.

Ozonized Ox Marrow (copyrighted) also makes curly or kinky hair straight, smooth and pliable. Prevents falling out and breaking off. The genuine never disappoints. Warranted harmless. Only 50 cents. Sold by dealers. If your dealer cannot supply you we will send you express paid one bottle for 65 cents or three for \$1.40. Write your name and address plainly to the OZONIZED OX MARROW CO., 80 Wabash Ave., Chicago.

FINANCIAL.

DO YOU NEED

MONEY?

We will lend any amount from \$10 up.

On Household Furniture,

pianos, horses, wagons, carriages, or personal property of any kind, without removal from your possession. Loans can be carried as long as desired, and payments can be made at any time to suit the convenience of the borrower. We are the only properly organized loan company in the city. If you appreciate low rates, courteous treatment, and attention to your interests, you will call on us. Offices private and easily reached. Loans made in any part of the city. No delay. Open from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m.

SECURITY LOAN COMPANY

Room 1, Warder Building;

Corner 9th and F sts. n. w.

Money \$50,000 Money

To loan on furniture, pianos, etc., without removal or publicity and the day you ask for it. We will loan any amount making time and payments to suit, giving one month or one year as you desire, and at rates that you can afford to pay. If you now have a loan with any other company and desire more money, give us a call. Will as cheerfully make a \$10 loan as \$100, and no charge or expense if loan is not made. Always ready to give information regarding rates and methods to secure a loan. We are the oldest loan company in the city, and will give you honest treatment. All business strictly confidential. Private offices.

Washington Mortgage Loan Co.,
610 F Street, N. W.

Money to Loan

ON FURNITURE, PIANOS, ETC.

If you are in need of money, we desire to inform you of our new method. We can secure you a loan on an easy monthly payment plan, at less cost than before, and below the rate of any other company in the city. You can pay in full at any time after loan is secured, and it will only cost you for such time as you have had the money. Our business is strictly private, and all applications are treated confidentially. If you have a loan with any other concern, you can secure a loan through us to pay it and get more money if desired. It will pay you to call and see us before going elsewhere. We are ready at any and all times during office hours to give information concerning our business methods, and you will receive courteous treatment.

CAPITAL

LOAN GUARANTEE CO

802 F ST. N. W.

Capital Savings Bank

609 F St. N. W., Washington, D. C.

Capital . . . \$50,000.

Hon. Jno. R. Lynch, President.

L. C. Bailey, Treasurer.

J. A. Johnson, Secretary.

D. B. McCary, Cashier.

Directors:

Jno. R. Lynch, Dr. W. S. Lotton, Whitefield McKinlay, J. C. Bailey, Robt. H. Terrell, W. S. Montgomery, Wyatt Archer, John A. Pierre, Henry E. Baker, James Storum, J. A. Johnson, Dr. A. W. Tancil, Howard H. Williams.

Deposits received from 10 cents upward. Interest allowed on \$5.00 and above. Collections meet with prompt attention. A general exchange and banking business done.

Bank open from 9 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.

The National Safe Deposit, Savings and Trust Company.

Corner 15th St. and New York Ave.

Capital: One Million Dollars.

Pays interest on deposits. Rents Safes inside burglar-proof vaults. Acts as administrator, executor, trustee, etc.

W. H. FISHER

:Dyer and Cleaner:

709 9th St. n. w.

407 14th St. n. w.

Telephone 152